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Short Notices.

Social Life of Scotland in the Eighteenth Century. By HENRY GREY GRAHAM. Two vols. Pp. 265 and 272. Edinburgh: Adam and Charles Black. 1899.

THESE very interesting and carefully compiled volumes give a somewhat gloomy and austere picture of the subject. The evidence quoted is very abundant, and the author has a wide knowledge of the literature of the century; but the inferences are sometimes too general. There were many Scottish families of rank and wealth who had constant intercourse with England, and who were quite on a par with English civilization, refinement, and manners; many of the Scottish nobility and gentry were educated in England. These naturally set up a standard of comfort different from that of which Mr. Graham has evidence, and family traditions and letters do not bear out his statements on social matters as universal. But the work is very ably performed and extremely amusing.

The Sacred Vestments. By the Rev. T. S. PASSMORE. Sampson Low and Co. Pp. 183.

This is a translation of the third book of "The Rationale of Divine Service," by Durandus, Bishop of Mens, Legate and Chaplain to various Popes of the thirteenth century. It is a curious and most fanciful account of the meaning of the various vestments of the Mediæval Church, and is a very vivid illustration of the puerilities of that era.

Knots Untied. By the late Bishop RYLE. C. J. Thynne. Pp. 442. Price 1s.

This cheap reprint of Bishop Ryle's important exposition of the Evangelical standpoint in matters of religion is now within the reach of everybody, and should be studied by all those who desire to have a clear idea of the controversies which are now rending the Church of England.

The Primacy of England. By SAMUEL F. HULTON. Simpkin, Marshall and Co. Pp. 355.

This very interesting work deals with the struggle between Canterbury and York. It describes the eclipse of both sees in importance by Henry VIII. and his successor, and, finally, the days of Parliamentary supremacy. The present condition of the Church, which has now no discipline but moral suasion, is ably placed to the gradual extinction or suspension of ecclesiastical courts.

Bishop Walsham How. By F. DOUGLAS HOW. Isbister and Co. Pp. 480. Price 16s.

There was no Bishop of the Church of England more beloved in his day than Bishop Walsham How, and he will be long remembered by his hymns, his Commentaries, and his "Plain Words." He had a frank

and bright disposition, was a very earnest Christian, and a man of good sense. Optimism led him frequently to form too high estimates of those about him; but he had a power of creating enthusiasm, and he did much to inspire the clergy of the East End of London with courage and hope. His life was brightened with humour, and it is pleasant to have, in a single volume, a well-drawn reminiscence of so interesting a personality.

Public School Sermons. By H. MONTAGUE BUTLER, D.D. Isbister and Co. Pp. 271. Price 5s.

The Master of Trinity's sermons are always helpful and suggestive. His language is graceful and scholarly, and the argument clear. These sermons to boys are extremely useful and valuable, and contain much that is really beautiful in conception and style. They are framed directly on the teaching of the New Testament.

Shakespeare's "Hamlet": a New Theory. By HAROLD FORD, D.C.L. Elliot Stock.

This interesting critique works out a new theory as to Shakespeare's intention in the creation of "Hamlet." "'Hamlet' is not merely a psychological tragedy, but a moral and spiritual history of a pure and lofty soul in its interminable conflict with the malignant powers of evil in the world, which it would fain renounce." The writer brings many influential arguments from the play to bear out his conception, which, of course, add greatly to the interest of the play.

The Apostle Paul's Reply to Lord Halifax. BY REV. WALTER WYNN. Elliot Stock. 1899.

Under this somewhat quaint title Mr. Wynn offers us an extended commentary on the Galatians, which he regards, not without justice, as the great bulwark of spiritual Christianity against formalism and ceremonial religion. The author believes that the man who preaches any truth that destroys sacerdotalism in the Church is doing a great work for modern England, and is confident that if St. Paul were living to-day he would be the greatest antagonist that sacerdotalism, whether Roman or Anglican, would have to face.

The book is far too prolix, but we sympathize with the writer's objects, and are inclined to think that his volume may prove useful. His main contention cannot, we think, be set aside.

The Month.

ALL present news from the seat of war seems to indicate the breakdown of the Boer resistance, and accordingly the break-up of the Dutch oligarchy that has been the cause of all the mischief hitherto. Lord Roberts occupied Johannesburg on May 30, thus saving the mines. Within a few days the fall of Pretoria was announced, and the release of